

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for mediating an electronic payment by sending and receiving electronic data, comprising:

~~sending electronic data relating to~~ arrival notification of a payment intention of a social insurance agency from a payment mediation system to a beneficiary system belonging to a beneficiary when said payment mediation system receives electronic data relating to said payment intention from a social insurance agency system belonging to said social insurance agency for every electronic payment; and

 requesting a deposit of funds from assets held by said social insurance agency into a deposit account of a financial system managed or owned by a financial institution determined from said electronic data relating to said payment intention, said deposit account being identified by the beneficiary system and provided to the payment mediation system upon receipt of said arrival notification of the payment intention from the payment mediation system, and said payment mediation system requesting the deposit of funds into said deposit account only when said payment mediation system newly receives electronic data relating to said deposit account from said beneficiary system within a payment due date or a payment period determined from said electronic data relating to said payment intention for every electronic payment.

2. (currently amended): A method for mediating an electronic payment using a computer, comprising:

 sending arrival notification of a payment intention from a mediator to a recipient identified by a payer when a notification of the payment intention from the payer of funds is received by the mediator; and

 requesting a deposit of funds as indicated by the payer into a deposit account of a financial institution determined from said payment intention only when a deposit account identification is newly received from said recipient by said mediator within a payment due date or a payment period determined from said payment intention for each payment, said mediator requesting the deposit of funds into said deposit account.

3. – 6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A system for mediating an electronic payment using a computer, comprising:

 a payment intention registration/notification processing means for receiving electronic data relating to a payment intention of a social insurance agency from a social insurance agency system belonging to said social insurance agency;

 a deposit account registration processing means for sending ~~electronic data relating to the~~ arrival notification of said payment intention to a beneficiary system belonging to a beneficiary when said payment intention registration/notification means receives said electronic data relating to said payment intention from said social insurance agency system for every electronic payment and receiving

electronic data relating to a deposit account identification from the beneficiary system; and

a periodic processing means for determining electronic data relating to the deposit account identification received within a payment period or a payment due date indicated in the electronic data relating to the payment intention, and for requesting a deposit of funds from the assets held by said social insurance agency into the determined deposit account of a financial system managed or owned by a financial institution indicated in said electronic data relating to said payment intention only when said deposit account registration processing means newly receives said deposit account identification from said beneficiary system for every electronic payment.

8. (previously presented): The system of claim 7, further comprising a deposit account confirmation processing means for receiving electronic data relating to the deposit account identification and for sending to the financial system belonging to the financial institution electronic data used to check for the existence of a recipient deposit account determined from the electronic data relating to the deposit account identification.

9. (previously presented): The system of claim 8 wherein the periodic processing means receives electronic data from the financial institution system indicating existence of the deposit accounts and begins processing.

10. (original): The system of claim 7 wherein the electronic data relating to the payment intention includes at least one of a payment amount, a payment date, a payment due date, a payment period, a payer ID identifying a payer, and a recipient ID identifying a recipient.

11. (original): The system of claim 10 wherein the electronic data relating to the payment intention includes a payer signature, in which a payer secret key is used to encrypt a hash value of a bit string of at least one of a payment amount, a payment date, a payment due date, a payment period, a payer ID identifying a payer, and a recipient ID identifying a recipient.

12. (previously presented): The system of claim 11 wherein the deposit account registration processing means calculates a hash value of a bit string of at least one of a payment amount, a payment date, a payment due date, a payment period, a payer ID identifying a payer, and a recipient ID identifying a recipient, decrypts the payer signature using a public key, and checks to see whether the hash value and the decrypted payer signature match.

13. (original): The system of claim 7 wherein the electronic data relating to the deposit account identification includes a hash value of electronic data relating to the payment intention.

14. (previously presented): The system of claim 13,

wherein the payment intention registration/notification processing means registers electronic data relating to the payment intention in the payment intention database, and

wherein the deposit account registration processing means compares a hash value of electronic data relating to the payment intention registered in the payment intention database with a hash value of the payment intention contained in the electronic data relating to the deposit account identification.

15. (original): The system of claim 13 wherein the electronic data relating to the deposit account identification includes a recipient signature generated by using a public key to encrypt a hash value of the payment intention and a signature associated with the deposit account.

16. (previously presented): The system of claim 15 wherein the deposit account registration processing means uses a public key to decrypt the recipient signature and checks to see if the decrypted recipient signature matches a payment intention hash value and a signature value associated with the deposit account contained in electronic data relating to the deposit account identification.

17. (canceled).

18. (previously presented): The system of claim 7 wherein the payment intention registration/notification processing means sends notification to the recipient system indicating arrival of the payment intention.

19. (previously presented): The system of claim 7 wherein the recipient system records electronic data relating to the payment intention to an IC card, and deletes the electronic data relating to payment intention from the IC card either after the deposit account is sent or before the IC card is removed from the recipient system.

20. (currently amended): A system for mediating an electronic payment using a computer, comprising:

a payment intention registration/notification means for receiving electronic data relating to a payment intention of the social insurance agency from a social insurance agency system belonging to said social insurance agency;

a deposit account registration processing means for sending ~~electronic data relating to the~~ arrival notification of said payment intention to a beneficiary system belonging to a beneficiary when said payment intention registration/notification means receives said electronic data relating to said payment intention from said social insurance agency system for every electronic payment, for receiving electronic data relating to deposit account identification from the beneficiary system within a payment due date or a payment period indicated in said electronic data relating to said payment intention, and for registering the deposit account and information indicating that funds are unpaid in a payment status field in a database only when

deposit account registration processing means newly receives said deposit account identification from said beneficiary system for every electronic payment; and

a periodic processing means for searching the database for a deposit account associated with the payment status indicating funds are unpaid and for requesting a deposit of funds from assets held by said social insurance agency into the deposit account of a financial system managed or owned by a financial institution date indicated in said electronic data relating to said payment intention,

wherein said payment intention registration/notification means newly registers "no identification of said deposit account" in said payment status corresponding to said received payment intention, when receiving said electronic data relating to said payment intention.

wherein said deposit account registration processing means newly registers said received deposit account in said database and updates said payment status into "said information indicating that funds are unpaid", when receiving said electronic data relating to said deposit account identification within said payment due date or said payment period, and

wherein said periodic processing means updates said payment status into "past due", when receiving no electronic data relating to said deposit account identification within said payment due date or said payment period.

21. (previously presented): The system of claim 20 wherein the periodic processing means changes the payment status to paid when funds have been transferred from the assets held by the payer to the deposit account.

22. (canceled).

23. – 32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented): A method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

storing said electronic data relating to the payment intention and participant data, including a first participant ID and a first password; and

receiving a second participant ID and a second password from said recipient system and registering said deposit account if said received second password matches said stored first password, which corresponds to said stored first participant ID, which matches said received second participant ID.

34. (previously presented): A method as described in claim 1, wherein said electronic data relating to a payment intention includes said payment due date or said payment period and a payment date, wherein said step of requesting comprises:

checking whether said payment due date or said payment period has passed;

checking whether said payment date has passed if said payment due date or said payment period has not passed yet; and

requesting to deposit funds from said payment mediation system to said deposit account of said financial system if said payment date has already passed.

35. (previously presented): A system as described in claim 7 further comprising:

a storage means for storing said electronic data relating to a payment intention and participant data including a participant ID and a password, wherein said deposit account registration processing means receives a participant ID and a password from said recipient system, and registers said deposit account if said received password matches said stored password corresponding to said stored participant ID, which matches said received participant ID.

36. (previously presented): A system as described in claim 7, wherein said electronic data relating to a payment intention includes said payment due date or said payment period and a payment date, and wherein said periodic processing means checks whether said payment due date or said payment period has passed, checks whether said payment date has passed if said payment due date or said payment period has not passed yet, and requests a deposit of account funds to said financial system if said payment date has already passed.